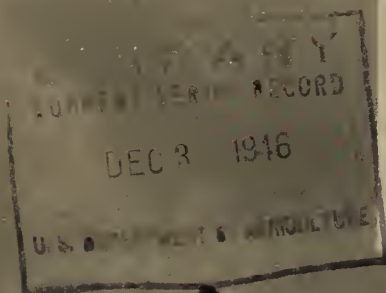


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PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS LOOK TO THEIR SOIL



**Some Accomplishments
under the AAA Program**

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Field Service Branch

Program Aid No. 2

**SOME AAA ACCOMPLISHMENTS
IN PENNSYLVANIA**

1944

Participating in AAA Programs	93,800 farms
Crop Land in Participating Farms	5,623,480 acres
Liming Material Applied	970,000 tons
20-percent Superphosphate Applied	78,000 tons
Winter Cover Crops Planted	28,000 acres
Diversion Ditches Constructed	1,400,000 feet
Contour Strip Cropping	23,000 acres
Sod Waterways Established	2,800,000 square feet
Legume Seed Harvested	731,000 pounds

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Production and Marketing Administration
Field Service Branch**

Washington, D. C.

April 1946

BUILDING THE SOIL—BUILDING THE STATE



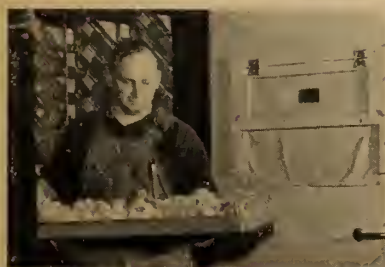
Clyde A. Zehner,
chairman.

George W. Schuler,
committeeman.



John A. Smith,
committeeman.

Albert H. Smith,
committeeman.



George Herbert Mil-
ler, committeeman.

Pennsylvania has a fine heritage in history and soil. The beginnings of American democracy are rooted here. So too are the beginnings of permanent farming, planned to keep the soil good by crop rotations and diversification. Some of our farms are more productive than they were generations ago, others have declined in fertility. Under the Agricultural Conservation Program we are trying to encourage practices that will make all our farms grow steadily more productive.

Progress is being made. Interest and a desire to help are shown in many quarters, based on a growing realization of the importance of the right kind of food from the right kind of soil in developing sound bodies and healthy minds.

Congress in recent years has provided funds for direct action through agricultural conservation programs to stem the tide of soil losses. Many State and Federal agencies concerned with agriculture and diet are directing increasing attention to the problem. City groups, particularly women's organizations and educators, are joining in advocating effective programs to support the efforts to conserve soil.

This brief report presents a few examples of the progress being made in meeting the State's ultimate goals of:

169,000 Pennsylvania farms maintained in thriving condition, with their soils growing richer year after year.

169,000 Pennsylvania farm families assured of a fair opportunity to earn incomes that will enable them to live abundantly. Plenty of the needed foods, rich in nutrients, year after year and every year, for the 10,000,000 people of Pennsylvania and their neighbors.

—The Pennsylvania State AAA Committee.

CARLISLE FARMER MAKES GOOD

Progress in restoring
his farm.



Oren McCaleb moved from Iowa to Carlisle, Cumberland County, in 1929. He bought what was called a “run-out” farm. As he puts it, “That was just before the big bust.”



Helped Oren McCaleb build his soil.

Here's how he tells his story:

“Several years of dropping prices brought me little more than the seed that went into the ground. Hogs were as low as 2½ cents a pound, milk less than 2 cents a quart. It was tough going for everybody, especially for a newcomer.

“But with the farm program, the turn came. Commodity loans and price supports put a floor under prices. Markets improved and prices stiffened.”

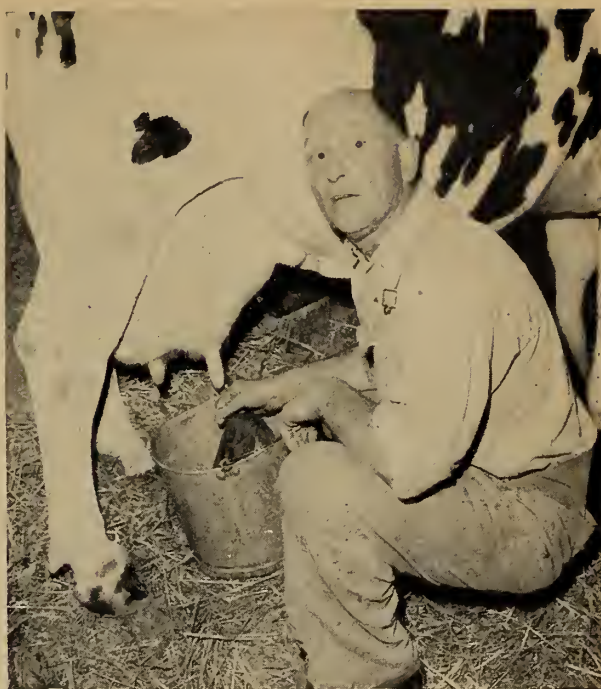
Bolstered by the confidence that came with improved markets, the Carlisle farmer has made real progress in restoring his farm. AAA lime and superphosphate have helped him build up his soil and improve his hay and pasture. Fewer cash crops and plenty of livestock, with emphasis on whiteface (Hereford) cattle, is the simple program which makes his soil-building efforts effective. Feed barley, which yielded 20 bushels per acre, is now up to 40 bushels—a 100-percent increase in 10 years.

CHAMPIONS GET THEIRS FROM THE SOIL

Lewis A. Zimmerman, Carbon County dairy farmer, owns a world's champion dairy herd, with a herd average of 731.6 pounds of butterfat. He believes that the best way to get the necessary minerals in the milk is through the soil—by way of feed and pasture. "It may be all right to mix some minerals with the dairy feed," he agrees, "but I am sure the best way for the cow to get them is from the plants, and plants must get them from the soil."

"Good pastures," says this leading dairyman, "are an important part of dairy feeding. Pastures must be regularly treated with the right fertilizers. So must the hay land. No matter how much grain you feed, you won't get good results unless your hay and pasture are good. And you can't get either from run-down soils. We expect to continue to feed our cattle through our soil, using the AAA program to help us get needed lime and superphosphate."

In these few words, the Carbon County dairyman sums up his farming practices. He is proud of the



Lewis A. Zimmerman, dairyman.

fact that he hasn't missed a local AAA meeting since the program started.



Minerals in feed and pasture.

TIME-SAVING LIMING

"I find it especially handy to mix lime and manure and spread it together. It is so much easier to handle this way and it saves time. I fill the spreader about half full of manure, empty a few sacks of pulverized limestone on this, top it off with a little more manure, and take it to the field."

The words are Walter D. McCarty's—telling about his way of using AAA lime plus manure to keep up the hay and pasture land on his Montour County farm. The McCarty farm is up where the Susquehanna starts its big swing to the northeast—where pastures and grasses with strong root systems are needed to keep the soil in place.



Lime in the spreader—better hay and pasture.

SUPERPHOSPHATE IN THE DAIRY BARN

A short cut to better soil.



William B. Cornog, Downingtown, Chester County, Dairy farmer, follows the rather common practice of mixing superphosphate with the manure in the dairy barn. As a result his hay and his pastures are of the best.

He puts it this way: "My pasture and hay crops are better than they ever were and I give credit to AAA lime and superphosphate. The superphosphate-manure mixture produces quick results."

BETTER TEETH IN MEADVILLE

Feeds 160 dairy cows.



A. N. Hilgendorf of Meadville, Crawford County, has an interesting slant on his job as a milk producer:

"If the milk I produce is low in calcium and phosphorus the people of Meadville suffer. If the minerals are low in the feed they will be low in the milk. And they will be low in the feed unless they are kept up in the soil. That's one reason why the great increase in the use of lime and superphosphate under the AAA program is important."

The Crawford County farmer started his dairy herd from rather meager beginnings back in 1923—\$500 in cash and \$1500 in borrowed money. Today he has 160 good Guernsey cows and 400 acres of land, most of it in legumes, grasses, and pasture. Always a stickler for keeping up his soil, today he uses all the lime and superphosphate he can get through the AAA program.



Uses superphosphate regularly.

MIXING IT WITH THE LITTER

30 to 40 percent
more cattle



"Of all the Triple-A practices I use on my farm—I believe the greatest results come from adding superphosphate to the dropping boards and litter in my 1,000-hen chicken house. When this is applied to the cropland and used to top-dress the pasture, the results are easy to see. I expect to keep 30 to 40 percent more cattle this year than last because of the improvement in my pasture."

—L. L. Innerst, RFD 1, York, Pa.

UP WHERE THE RIVERS BEGIN



Steep slopes back
to grass

Pennsylvania's AAA contour-planting practice helps farmers on hilly land to keep their soil in place. Planting on the contour has an especial appeal to Ed Fisher of Coudersport near the headwaters of the Alleghany.

This Potter County farmer uses the AAA program to help him get his fields laid out on the contour so all of his crop rows serve as little check dams. He uses it also to get parts of his worn land on steep slopes back to trees and grass. He has already planted 115,000

seedlings of American pine and Norway spruce.

Potatoes are his big cash crop—250 acres of them in 1945. At the same time he had 280 acres of oats and 150 acres of buckwheat, these two serving as nurse crops for clover which is to be turned under to build up the soil for more potatoes. AAA lime and superphosphate applied to the clover, help him in his soil-building efforts.

LAND AND HERD IMPROVEMENT GO TOGETHER



A better farm than in
1700.

Prefers to talk about
his Guernseys.

By continually improving his red-shale, rolling land, his Guernsey cows and his contour farming system, Philip W. Smith of New Hope, Bucks County, has a better farm than when the first Smith, seven generations back, started to farm there in 1700. Much of the improvement has been made in recent years, particularly in the years since 1933 when AAA help became available.

There are no tricks and no short cuts in the Smith farming system. It is based on the principle that what comes out of the soil must be put back if the soil is to continue to produce. Therefore, he produces his own feed, returns the manure from his dairy herd to the land, and adds AAA lime and superphosphate as a regular part of his rotation practice. And, by farming on the contour, he keeps his land in place.

But the Bucks County dairyman prefers to talk about his Guernsey herd—particularly about Evergreen's Hopeful Rilma, first in her class for Pennsylvania and fourth in her class for the United States. In



1945 she produced more than 15,000 pounds of milk and nearly 800 pounds of butterfat on two milkings a day. Rilma tops the 80 head of Guernseys on the Smith farm and is the high watermark in the herd-improvement work started by him back in 1919.

LOOKS AHEAD TO POSTWAR SURPLUSES

Concerned about
his production
plant



Lynn Sill of Beaver Dam, Erie County, is one of Pennsylvania's top potato growers. He, like other efficient farmers who expect to stay in business, is

primarily concerned with keeping his production plant, the soil, in best condition. He uses the AAA program to the fullest.

But Mr. Sill's immediate concern has to do with postwar problems. Here's how he puts it:

"I use all the AAA lime and superphosphate I can get on my cover crops. I have learned from practical experience that you've got to keep up your soil if you're going to grow potatoes. Yes, I appreciate that part of the AAA program, but, it seems to me the greatest value in the AAA lies in the possibility of using the committees in solving the problems of postwar surpluses to head off another collapse."

TAKES A TIP FROM THE COUNTY AGENT



AAA lime and super
were used

G. Clair Smith of Martinsburg is one of the many farmers of Blair County who has taken full advantage of pasture improving possibilities offered by the AAA. On the advice of County Agent Eugene G. Hamill, currently on leave helping to restore German agriculture,

Mr. Smith developed 18 acres of fine rotated pasture which now provides summer grazing for his herd of 26 dairy cattle. AAA lime and superphosphate were used in building up the pasture.

GOOD SOIL—GOOD FOOD—GOOD HEALTH

Marie Thoren Shelley of Port Allegany, farm wife, mother of four children and former kindergarten teacher, has powerful convictions about the need for the right kind of food for growing boys and girls. As a farmer's wife she also understands the relation between soil, food, and strong bodies and the relation of AAA to them all.

At a recent meeting of the McKean County Pomona Grange she led the discussion on the need for maintaining a school-lunch program, not merely as a means for disposing of surpluses but for seeing that children obtain the right kind of balanced diet. She believes that the diet of young children going to rural school needs special attention—even more than in the cities.

She sums up her convictions with the words: "I hope that the postwar school that our youngest child, Stephen, will attend, will have hot school lunches, the foods coming from soils rich in the needed elements,



Marie Thoren Shelley has powerful convictions.

and supplemented, if necessary, with vitamins. Moreover, I hope the custom will spread so that children everywhere will get the needed food. I know of no better way of solving the double problem of unemployment and farm surpluses."



School lunches and better diet.

THE POTATO MARKET REMAINED FIRM

W. D. Reitz is a Lewisburg potato grower. He assists in the operation of a 10-farm estate of more than 1,000 acres. He is now in the process of contouring the farms. Starting last year he expects to complete one a year until the job is done.

He and his Union County neighbors used the joint AAA-CCC surplus program to put a floor under prices in 1944. Here's how he tells about the 1944 operation:

"A new potato crop was coming on and there was a considerable supply of old potatoes on the market. In the past such a situation had only one result—heavy money losses and a short acreage the next season. But this time, with Commodity Credit



A new potato crop was coming on.

Corporation funds, a small supply of potatoes was bought up and converted to starch and other uses. The market remained firm, and the way was cleared for the new crop. The growers did not have to go through the wringer."

STORED A FEW—SAVED THE REST

Fred Rarig (checking sacks) is a committeeman



In the fall of 1944, 36 Columbia County farmers near Benton took advantage of the Commodity Credit Corporation loan program and stored their potatoes under Government loan. The result was a steady local market and a uniformly good price throughout the marketing season.

This successful effort traces directly to the county AAA committee, of which Fred C. Rarig is a member, in cooperation with Roy R. Hess, district sales representative of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers Association.

Under the loan, farmers were assured \$2.75 a hundred for U. S. No. 1's and \$1.37½ for No. 2's. Actually, through participation in the program, farmers received from \$2.95 to \$3.11 net for their No. 1's and 11 cents above the loan for their No. 2's.

Before the selling season was over, 750,000 pecks of potatoes were sold, including all those under loan except about 500 sacks of No. 2's. The picture shows Mr. Rarig checking out these potatoes as they are being loaded into a boxcar for shipment to state institutions.



Roy R. Hess represents the coops.

GRAIN STORAGE PAYS THREE WAYS



Wheat from the Hall farm sold for more.

“Three years ago, I built some large grain elevators with a capacity of 25,000 bushels. As a result, farmers in this area were able to take advantage of the AAA-CCC loan plan for wheat. And, without

exception, every farmer who stored his grain and took out a loan sold his wheat for more than the loan.”

—H. P. Dyson, grain merchant and miller,
New Bloomfield, Perry County.

H. P. Dyson's
25,000-bushel
grain elevator.



“I cannot lose, and I expect to continue to take advantage of the storage and loan program. I store my wheat in Dyson's elevator and every year I have sold it for more than the loan.”—John K. Hall, farmer Millerstown.

“Last year I stored 1,400 bushels of wheat at Dyson's elevator. I took out a CCC loan. A short time later I sold the wheat, paid off the loan and got an additional \$70. I believe the storage and loan program is the greatest price-stabilizing influence in the farm picture today. We used to worry when we had a big wheat crop because it always knocked prices down. Now, even with a three or four hundred million bushel wheat carry-over, prices remain firm. For the first time, the farmer, when he plants his wheat, has a fair idea of the price he will get at harvest.”

—Oscar Fyler, farmer, Pfoutz Valley.



Oscar Fyler used
to worry.

INSURANCE LOOKS GOOD IN LANCASTER COUNTY

Heavy summer rains hurt the wheat crop.



Harold S. Endslow, Marietta farmer, was among the 2,013 Lancaster County farmers to insure their tobacco crops in 1945, the first year tobacco was included in the program. At the same time, he took advantage of the renewed opportunity to insure his wheat.

His enthusiasm for crop insurance dates back to about 1939. That year heavy rain during the heading

period cut his wheat crop to about a third of normal. He harvested 1,200 bushels instead of the usual 3,700. Crop insurance saved him from a big loss.

When the question of resuming crop insurance was before Congress early in 1945, the Lancaster County farmer was on hand to tell how "crop insurance saved my wheat when the weather let me down."

FROM TEACHING TO PRACTICE

In June 1944, Robert W. Lohrs, Jr., quit teaching school, bought up the old home farm adjoining that of his brother, and from here on expects to devote his time to building a home and a farm.

As a teacher, he centered attention on getting his students and their parents to go after the job of building up and conserving their soils. Here's his comment on the progress made: "When I was a boy we had good farms and poor farms in this community. Now there is not much difference in farm soil. I believe the AAA has lifted the whole community soil fertility level."

As a farmer in his own right with about 100 acres of potatoes and 6,500 turkeys, he is now fully engaged in the job of putting his teachings into practice. The



Lifted the fertility level.

use of AAA soil-building materials is already a fixed part of his farming system, a big help in improving his turkey range. Looking ahead, he hopes to use the program to help drain low spots in his fields and to build a farm pond.

FOOD AND HEALTH IN THE MAKING



Keeps the growth new
and succulent.

Keystone of the
Campbell farm.

“City people, more and more are insisting that the Government take an active part in maintaining soils that the food in the stores will have the elements needed for strong minds and bodies.” So says J. S. Campbell, Jr., dairy farmer, near Butler, Butler County.

In the family since 1802, the Campbell farm has nearly a century and a half of known production behind it. The Campbell herd of 108 head is one of the famous Jersey herds of the country.

Keystone of the Campbell farm is its pasturage—four good, rotated pastures, fertilized every 4 years with 800 pounds of superphosphate and whatever lime is needed. Occasional clipping of the pastures keeps the growth new and succulent and checks weeds. A few acres of soybeans help during the midsummer hot spell. He uses AAA programs to the fullest.



“Good pasture and good hay from a carefully guarded soil is our answer to the food problem,” says Mr. Campbell. “For us the bluegrass, Ladino and red clover pastures—which also are cut for silage—really do the business.”

THE NATION'S FARM PROGRAM

Some major activities referred to in recent agricultural legislation which underlie the duties assigned to the Field Service Branch, formerly Agricultural Adjustment Agency.

1. To preserve, maintain, and rebuild the farmland resources—through soil-building and soil-conserving practices.

2. To assist in the marketing of agricultural crops—through storage, loans, and marketing quotas.

3. To provide a balanced flow of basic commodities to market—cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco, and rice are the basic commodities.

4. To assist consumers to obtain an adequate and steady supply of food at fair prices, and—

5. To assist farmers to obtain parity prices and parity of income—through production adjustment, storage and loans, parity payments, marketing quotas.

—Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938

6. To bring the prices and income of the producers of nonbasic commodities . . . to a fair relationship with other commodities, to the extent that funds are available—includes hogs, eggs, chickens, turkeys, milk, butterfat, peas, beans, soybeans, peanuts, flaxseed, cotton, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes.

—Steagall Amendment, July 1941

7. To promote the national welfare by alleviating the economic distress caused by crop failures due to drought and other causes, by maintaining the purchasing power of farmers, and by providing for stable supplies of agricultural commodities—responsibility for promotion and sales assigned to Field Service Branch.

—Crop Insurance Act, February, 1938

The following are provisions of Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act for expanding markets, improving diets and disposing of surpluses:

1. To encourage exports.

2. To use 30 percent of import duties to encourage the domestic consumption of farm products—food stamps and school-lunch programs.

3. To reestablish farmer purchasing power—production payments to farmers for commodities for domestic consumption.